

Request for Pre Proposals for FY03 Wetlands Program Development Grants

I. Summary

On August 26, 2002, the FY03 Wetlands Program Development Grant Guidelines were published in the Federal Register. (See Federal Register Notice at - <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2002/August/Day-26/w21670.htm>) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Wetlands Division, is issuing a request for pre-proposals from national nonprofit, non-governmental organizations, interstate agencies, and intertribal consortia interested in applying for Federal assistance for the State/Tribal/Local Government (S/T/LG) Wetlands Protection Development Grants (WPDGs) under Clean Water Act section 104(b)(3). EPA will fund up to 75% of the total project cost.

II. Pre-Proposal Contents

Pre-proposals must conform to the following outline and must not be more than five single sided pages.

- (1) Summary of key objectives and final products, preferably in 50 words or less;
- (2) detailed description of project tasks and an explanation of how the project will contribute to developing or improving S/T/LG wetland programs;
- (3) deliverables;
- (4) budget and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component;
- (5) time-line;
- (6) performance evaluation process and reporting schedule;
- (7) roles and responsibilities of the recipient and any major partners (e.g., S/T/LGs) in carrying out the work plan commitments; and
- (8) contact information for the Program Manager, Grant Project Lead Manager, and Budget Manager.

III. Insight Into the Selection Criteria

Grant funds are awarded through a competitive process. Funding decisions are made by EPA Headquarters and are based on the quality of the proposals received and adherence to the selection criteria section listed below. EPA typically receives requests for funding far in excess of available funds; therefore, EPA cannot provide grant funds to all applicants. All proposals must meet the requirements of the FY 2003 Wetland Program Development Grants Guidelines. (See Federal Register Notice at - <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2002/August/Day-26/w21670.htm>)

EPA will target funds to projects that will enhance S/T/L wetland programs, especially in three priority areas: 1) development of a S/T/LG's monitoring and assessment program; 2) improvement of the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation; and 3) protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources. All proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- ! Clarity of Work Plan - proposals must clearly identify goals and objectives, detail proposed activities, explain the relevance to S/T/L wetland programs, and present any supporting information;
- ! Potential Environmental Results - factors such as strong partnerships, demonstrated need for the project, and commitments to build upon the proposed project indicate high probability for positive environmental results in the short and long term;
- ! Transferability of Results and/or Methods to S/T/LG - support from S/T/LG for the project and its relevance to S/T/L wetland programs is strongly encouraged;
- ! Success of Previous Projects - for applicants who have received prior EPA funding;
- ! Involvement/Commitment of the applicant- significant financial and personnel contribution and involvement of partners, especially S/T/LGs is strongly encouraged;
- ! Incorporation of project into broad agency goals - in addition to the three national program priorities, EPA has identified six program areas that are critical to a comprehensive S/T/LG wetland program and seek proposals that support the core program areas, which are: 1) regulation; 2) monitoring and assessment; 3) restoration; 4) water quality standards; 5) public-private partnerships; and 6) coordination (Core Elements of a Comprehensive Wetland Program are available on EPA's web page <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/initiative/#financial> or by mail upon request to the Wetlands Helpline at (800) 832-7828).

VI. Deadline

Pre-proposals must be received by December 9, 2002 by email (preferred), fax, or regular mail.

Pre-proposals must not be more than five single sided pages.

EPA HQ Wetlands Division will select the most competitive pre-proposals for continuation into the final proposal phase. Both the quality and quantity of the applications will play a significant role in the selection of grants for funding. Applicants selected for further competition will be asked to submit a more detailed workplan and final application.

Please send Pre-proposals to Connie Cahanap:

Email: cahanap.concepcion@epa.gov (WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format)

Fax: 202-566-1382 or 202-566-1349

Regular Mail: (original and 2 copies)
 Connie Cahanap
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If you have any questions please contact Connie Cahanap at 202-566-1382 or at cahanap.concepcion@epa.gov